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NOV 17 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Applicant: Cheng-Ku Chen

Application No.: 09/996,864 (CONF 4851)

Filed: 11/19/2001

Title: Hard mask trimming with thin hard mask layer
and top protection layer

Attorney Docket No.: 67,200-600

Group Art Unit:
2814

Examiner:
Long Pham

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

Date:

Nov. 12/03

Kathy Dixon

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of August 12, 2003, please amend the application as follows, and consider the following remarks.

RECEIVED
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800